

REMARKS

Summary Of The Office Action & Formalities

Status of Claims

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1, 4 and 8. No new matter is added.

Additional Fees

Submitted herewith is a Petition for Extension of Time with fee.

Claim to Foreign Priority

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the claim to foreign priority and for confirming that the certified copy of the priority document was received.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for initialing the references listed on PTO/SB/08 forms submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on March 31, 2006, June 7, 2006 and January 16, 2007.

Claim Rejections - § 112

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reason set forth at page 2 of the Office Action.

Applicant is amending the claim to overcome this rejection.

Art Rejections

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mizuno et al. (US 2004/0018801).

Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-9 In View Of Mizuno et al. (US 2004/0018801).

In rejecting claims 1-9 in view of Mizuno et al. (US 2004/0018801), the grounds of rejection state:

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

[Mizuno] discloses the claimed invention including a first stage and second stage (410,420) that move vertically, a tray movement unit (430) including two arms (431,432) that moves a tray from a stacked set of first stage to a processor (100a, 100b) for grinding the lenses, a lens conveying apparatus (200) for conveying lens from tray to processor back to tray, and tray movement unit moves tray to second stage for stacking trays, it is inherent that the arms have a vertical dimension that would include a bottom edge which would act as a guide member that contacts topmost tray of stacked trays of second stage, as broadly claimed.

Office Action at pages 2-3.

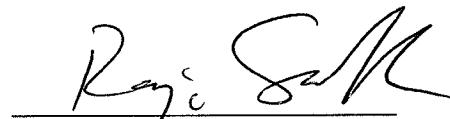
Current claim 1 clarifies the feature of the guide unit. Mizuno (US 2004/0018801) clearly does not disclose or suggest a guide unit recited in claim 1.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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